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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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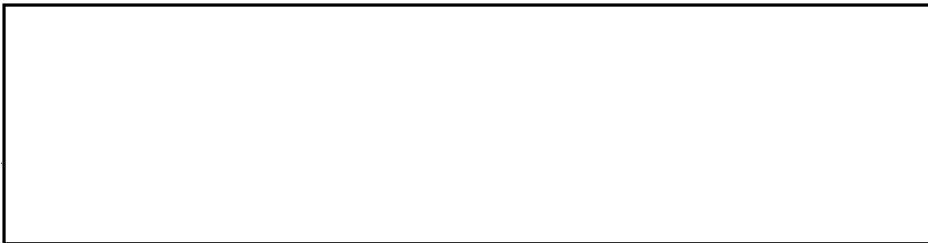
9 August 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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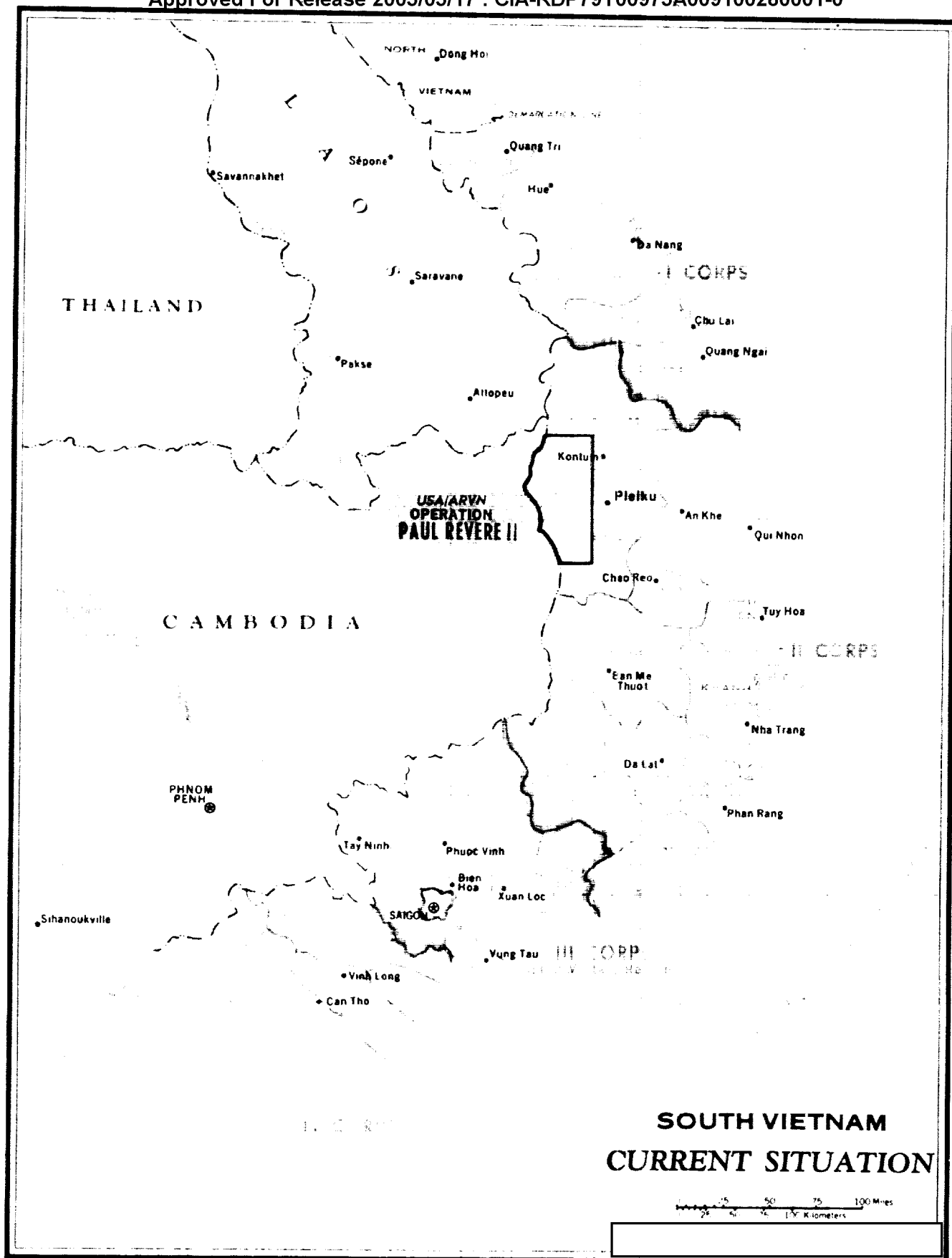
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Contact has been renewed with Communist forces in the central highlands.

A US company, participating in Operation PAUL REVERE II, yesterday fought an estimated battalion-size enemy force about 30 miles southwest of Pleiku. Supported by planes and artillery, the US unit reportedly killed 65 Viet Cong, while losing 22 killed and 36 wounded. Elsewhere, military activity is at a low level. (See Map)

Meanwhile, MACV is continuing interrogation in Saigon of a Viet Cong who defected on 2 August in II Corps. The rallier claims to be

[REDACTED]

MACV has increased its estimate of the strength of each of the three regiments of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 324B Division--now in South Vietnam's northernmost province, Quang Tri--from 1,500 to 2,500 men. In addition

[REDACTED]

MACV has accepted into the possible category seven support battalions of the division. The total strength of the division is now carried at 9,410 men, instead of 5,000, as before. (See Map)

These and other minor changes announced by MACV raise the number of confirmed PAVN soldiers in South Vietnam to 44,900.

[REDACTED]

Syria: Continuing differences within the Baathist military regime have sparked new rumors that some open conflict is imminent.

Personal rivalries among the regime's military leaders have precluded the development of any cohesive leadership which might stabilize the six-month-old government. Either of two major contending army factions could move to oust its opponent at any time.

The question of whether or not to seek a meaningful rapprochement with Egypt--including the reinstatement of pro-Nasirist officers in the army--has provided still another source of conflict. Supporters of the Baathist regime which was ousted last February also remain a potential threat.

Further tension has been generated in the military by the resentment of the Sunni (orthodox) Muslims --who are the majority--toward the preponderance of members of the minority Alawite sect in influential posts.

Civilian dissatisfaction with the fragmented regime is increasingly outspoken. No civilian group, however, possesses any capability for effective anti-government action.

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NOTES

25X1 Nigeria: [Disregarding new Supreme Commander Gowon's orders, the northern troops who now control the Lagos area are still searching out Ibo military personnel.]

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though apparently personally loyal to Gowon, these northerners are said to have an overriding concern for their own security in what they regard as hostile territory following their recent anti-Ibo mutiny.

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Uruguay: President Heber evidently intends to resume immediately his duties as head of Uruguay's nine-man government council. His walkout on 3 August failed to attract much popular support for his ostensible attempt to force recalcitrant members of his governing Blanco Party to support a bipartisan constitutional reform proposal. He has caused, rather, a split in both major Blanco factions and increased chances for anti-reform elements to stall the proposal in congress beyond the 27 August deadline for its inscription on next November's ballot.

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 The Department of State
 The Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
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 The Secretary of Defense
 The Deputy Secretary of Defense
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 The Secretary of the Navy
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 Commander in Chief, Pacific
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 The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
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